

att 11. (Amended) The writing implement according to claim 10, wherein the viscoelastic liquid material is a silicone gel or silicone oil.

Cancel claims 2 and 12-20 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Reconsideration And Allowance Are Respectfully Requested.

Claims 1 and 3-11 are currently pending. Claims 2 and 12-20 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 3-11 have been amended. No new matter has been added. No new claims have been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant would first like to thank Examiner Prunner for the time spent in reviewing a proposed amendment prior to the submission of the present formal Amendment. After reviewing the proposed amendment, Examiner Prunner had many positive suggestions which aided in better defining the present invention.

With this in mind, amended claim 1 defines a writing implement having a main body with a gripping portion. The writing implement further includes a grip shaped and dimensioned to fit about the gripping portion of the main body so as to be releasably secured to the main body. The grip includes a longitudinally extending, tubular shell having a hardness sufficient to maintain the shape of the grip. The shell has an inner surface abutting with the main body and an outer surface. The grip further includes a viscoelastic hand/finger surface positioned about the outer surface of the

tubular shell. The shell includes proximal and distal lips retaining the viscoelastic hand/finger surface positioned in a central section of the tubular shell.

With respect to the outstanding rejections based upon prior art, claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,000,599 to McCall et al. (McCall). In contrast to the claimed invention, McCall fails to disclose a grip shaped and dimensioned to fit about the gripping portion of the main body so as to be releasably secured to the main body. McCall further fails to disclose a shell including proximal and distal lips retaining the viscoelastic hand/finger surface positioned in a central section of a tubular shell.

As McCall fails to disclose each and every limitation of the amended claim 1, and as the prior art fails to suggest the obviousness of the claimed features, it is Applicant's opinion that amended claim 1 overcomes the prior art of record. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection based upon McCall be withdrawn.

With regard to those claims dependent upon independent claim 1, they are believed to overcome the prior art of record for the reasons discussed above with regard to independent claim 1.

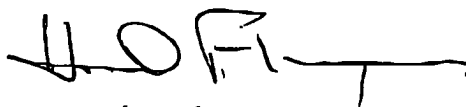
In addition to the rejections based upon prior art, the Office Action objects to the Abstract of the Disclosure. The Abstract has been amended as suggested by the Examiner and is now believed to comply with MPEP § 608.01.

In addition, the Examiner has objected to informalities in the claims. These informalities have been addressed and are now believed to have been overcome. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made".

It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested. If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact applicants' representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,



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Docket No. KWI-003

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph at Page 7, lines 1-5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present grip, and with reference to Figures 1 and 2, the grip 10 is shaped and dimensioned to fit about the gripping portion 14 of the main body 20 of a writing implement 16 so as to be releasably secured to the main body 20. The grip 10 includes a shell 12, [shaped and dimensioned to fit about the grip portion 14 of a convention writing implement 16. As such,] Because of the shape and fit of the grip 10, the shell 12 includes an inner surface 18 shaped and dimensioned to fit about and abut the main body 20 of the writing implement 16 at a position in line with the grip portion 14 thereof. --

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- A grip adapted for attachment to a writing implement [is disclosed. The grip] includes a longitudinally extending tubular shell having an inner surface and an outer surface. The grip further includes a viscoelastic hand/finger surface formed about the outer surface of the tubular shell.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1 and 3-11 as follows:

1. (Amended) A writing implement, comprising:
 - a main body having a gripping portion [upon which a grip is mounted];
 - a grip shaped and dimensioned to fit about the gripping portion of the main body so as to be releasably secured to the main body;

the grip including a longitudinally extending, tubular shell having hardness sufficient to maintain the shape of the grip, the shell has an inner surface abutting with the main body and an outer surface, and a viscoelastic hand/finger surface [formed] positioned about the outer surface of the tubular shell; the shell further including proximal and distal lips retaining the viscoelastic hand/finger surface positioned in a central section of the tubular shell.

3. (Amended) [A] The writing implement according to claim 2, wherein the viscoelastic hand/finger surface is a viscoelastic solid-phase polymer material.
4. (Amended) [A] The writing implement according to claim 3, wherein the viscoelastic solid-phase polymer material is a thermoplastic elastomer.
5. (Amended) [A] The writing implement according to claim 2, wherein the viscoelastic hand/finger surface is a viscous liquid material contained within an elastomeric bag.
6. (Amended) [A] The writing implement according to claim 5, wherein the viscous~~us~~[elastic] liquid material is a silicone gel or silicone oil.
7. (Amended) [A] The writing implement according to claim 1, wherein the grip is integrally formed with the main body of the writing implement.
8. (Amended) [A] The writing implement according to claim 7, wherein the viscoelastic hand/finger surface is a viscoelastic solid-phase polymer material.

9. (Amended) [A] The writing implement according to claim 8, wherein the viscoelastic solid-phase polymer material is a thermoplastic elastomer.
10. (Amended) [A] The writing implement according to claim 7, wherein the viscoelastic hand/finger surface is a viscous liquid material contained within an elastomeric bag.
11. (Amended) [A] The writing implement according to claim 10, wherein the viscoelastic liquid material is a silicone gel or silicone oil.

Cancel claims 2 and 12-20 without prejudice.